

VERY PROSY

Was the Progress of the Hissom Damage Suit, Yesterday.

END MAY NOT COME THIS MONTH

There Are Seventy Witnesses Yet to Appear, and the Minute Examinations Allow of Only Three or Four Testifying Each Day—An Island Physician Was Yesterday's Principal Witness For Defense.

The Hissom case was comparatively tame yesterday from the spectators' section in the circuit court, and there were no features bordering on the dramatic or sensational. There are yet about seventy witnesses to be examined, including a number of physicians, and as each witness is questioned minutely, the end of this famous case will hardly come in February.

The first witness yesterday was J. W. Ewing, who was recalled from the previous day, and he was on the stand nearly all forenoon. He was asked to state the amount of the financial compensation received for his services as attorney for J. R. Hissom, which totaled \$146. He had paid some bills of expense occurred in the prosecution of the lunacy case for J. R. Hissom, among them one of \$7.75 to the chief of police for arresting Dr. Hissom, which item was in excess of the charges according to the statute, asserted Attorney Hubbard, who cross-examined Mr. Ewing to a finish. Mr. Ewing said that Mr. Hissom thought that the chief and the squire were entitled to additional compensation. The witness was taken over much of the same stony road as on Wednesday afternoon.

Harry Nelson and William Hubbard, sons-in-law of the defendant, gave testimony of the violent actions of the plaintiff, which led to the belief in his insanity. The last witness was Dr. E. C. Myers, of the Island, the elder Hissom's family physician, who was one of the physicians that examined Dr. Hissom as to his sanity. The ground traversed in his testimony was as usual, gone over in the cross-examination.

"History of the Case."

Dr. Myers was cross-examined by Mr. Schuck on "the history of the case," as pertaining to conversations with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hissom and Whitten Hissom. The sanity of the doctor was discussed with the witness by all the relatives named, but principally by the defendant. As to Whitten, the witness wouldn't undertake to quote him, but he thought his statements were confirmatory of the father's, yet was unable to separate them from the general history of the case. William Hubbard, a son-in-law of J. R. Hissom, mentioned the matter of the plaintiff's having come to the house with a revolver and threatening to kill Mrs. Hissom "if she stood by his father." The witness couldn't recall anything said by William Hubbard other than that.

Up to the time of Dr. Hissom's arrest, the witness couldn't recall having talked with Whitten Hissom. He thought he had talked with Hubbard previous to the arrest, but wasn't positive. The witness said he expressed his opinion that Dr. Hissom was suffering from delusions, after conversing with the young man's father. The witness said that he discovered no direct symptoms of insanity when he called on the plaintiff, and admitted that before Squire Greer he had said that the plaintiff would change the subject when he sought to draw him out in conversation; and witness had testified before the justice that Dr. Hissom was suffering from delusions, one of the most dangerous forms of insanity. The justice's transcript made the witness say "delusion of insanity," instead of "delusional insanity." Dr. Myers said the opinion he gave to J. R. Hissom in January, 1899, was that Dr. Hissom was probably insane. The witness would not be positive about the date, and said if a Sistersville trip of the plaintiff, which occurred in February, was mentioned in the January conversation, the witness was confounded by the occurrences, since many had been related to him by J. R. Hissom, and witness had kept no record of the dates of the conversation. From the same source came the reports of the plaintiff's peculiar acts after his return from Germany.

Hidden Beauty

In Egypt the custom is for Princesses to hide their beauty by covering the lower part of the face with a veil. In America the beauty of many of our women is hidden because of the weakness and sickness peculiar to the sex. If the Egyptian custom prevailed in this country, many sufferers would be glad to cover their premature wrinkles, their sunken cheeks, their unhealthy complexion, from the eyes of the world with the veil of the Orient.

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Dr. Myers was shown letters he wrote to Superintendent Guthrie, of the Spencer asylum. The letters were two in number, one being a report of Dr. Hissom's case, and witness said they were sent at the request of J. R. Hissom. "His insanity is one of persecution, and the delusion is largely in one direction—that his father is squandering his estate, leading an immoral life, etc." was the principal paragraph in the report. It was followed by the recital of certain incidents showing the violence of the son toward his father, who was forced to take the measures he did for the protection of himself and family, and also that his son might be returned to reason.

Elder Hissom Misrepresented.

Dr. Myers was firmly of the opinion that the elder Hissom had been misrepresented in the case, and he thought Superintendent Guthrie would confirm his opinion of the son's delusions if he would make investigation. He further stated that the father had spent about \$5,000 or \$6,000 on the son's education. In his summing up of the case, Dr. Myers repeated the delusions of the son about the father squandering the estate, and the danger to the father, owing to the son's threats to kill him. The superintendent was asked to make more than a casual examination. Dr. Myers stating his only interest was to protect the family, whose physician he was. The letters were written in March, 1899.

After the papers were read, Dr. Myers was cross-examined on their contents by Mr. Schuck. "The casual examination" reference was explained by the witness to mean that an insane patient could be examined on one occasion and give no symptoms of insanity, answering rationally, perhaps at that time, hence some history of his case was needed by the examining physician. The witness wrote a statement of the case as it had been presented to him; he had no purpose in lessening the estimate of affidavits of other physicians. He had not seen the testimony of other physicians and possibly might have read in the newspapers that there was favorable to the young doctor, but his only motive was to impress Superintendent Guthrie with the importance of a careful examination. Dr. Baguley had told witness of making a casual examination, remarking to witness, "You know how much that amounts to." He recalled hearing Dr. McLain say he had been called to examine Dr. Hissom, but not thoroughly.

He did not know of these examinations by Drs. Baguley and McLain when he wrote to Superintendent Guthrie, but knew in a general way from the newspapers that some such examinations were made. He knew nothing then that the son would enter a damage suit if he was released from the asylum, but his impression was that there were threats of the character, and possibly he got this impression from J. R. Hissom, yet wasn't sure, for there were so many rumors about.

MR. MAXWELL OBJECTS

To Some of the Register's Statements in Regard to the Assessment of Property in the Country Districts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE INTELLIGENCER. SIR:—Please allow me space to make a few statements in justice to myself and to enlighten the public as to some erroneous statements in the list of property published in the Market street Journal. The law says where the owner of property has two or three contiguous pieces of property they can be assessed as one. That I did in many instances at the request of the owners. I notice in some of the values given the new assessment of all the pieces are affixed to but one of the old, which is not correct. In the property of I. G. and Henrietta Buckhannon, two pieces—80 acres 164 poles and 49 acres 145 poles—the first piece valued at \$2,750, the second at \$900, gives a total of \$3,650. Both together make 130 acres 87 poles, valued at \$3,750, only \$100 increase, and not \$1,000, as published, and that is on improvements. Many more might be mentioned, but I deem one sufficient.

Now, there are increases and decreases, many of them on improvements, some of adjacent property of about the same value per acre, but contain a different number of acres and improvements. I will give a few in different parts of the county: E. M. Atkinson's farm, almost at the gates of the city 223 acres, value, \$6,100, at \$26 per acre; George Rice's farm, seventeen miles from the city, near Potomac, 69 acres, value, \$3,000, at \$50 per acre; George Woods' farm, at Woodsdale, 92 acres, \$5,000, at \$54 per acre; W. F. Whitman's farm, on National road, 155 acres, \$5,220; John Whitman's farm, one mile from road adjoining 180 acres, \$5,720; George Morrison, 129 acres, \$4,200; James Peters' estate, 140 acres, \$3,500; Improvements equal; James and Laura Coten, five acres, poor, steep and rocky, improvements poor, \$22 per acre; John J. Jacobs' farm, good land, 267 acres, \$22 per acre; James and Margaret Tanner, 50 acres, poor land, \$20 per acre; John Blaney farm, 164 acres, \$19 per acre, good land.

Elm Grove town lots: Dr. Cracraft, 1 1/2 acres, \$100; building, \$1,200; total, \$1,400; Mrs. Sweeney, joins in rear, one acre, \$500; building, \$1,400; total, \$1,900; Hannibal Forbes, 4 acres, \$320, building, \$3,500; total, \$3,820; A. J. Cecil, 10 1/2 acres, total value, \$4,240; 2 1/2 acres sold, no improvements, for \$5,000, 8 acres, with three good dwellings, left. Property in Ritchie assessed at \$750 sold a few months ago for \$1,600.

I have given two pieces of property joining in different parts of the county. The increases and decreases were made to bring them as near uniform as possible. That I believe to be one of the main features of the assessment law. These are all old valuations of ten years ago. Now, if the Register's arithmetical can figure out equality in these, it must be the same kind they use down in Kentucky to count in the governor.

Now, I wish to say a word as to the books. I hear it has been intimated they were spirited away or some trickery was resorted to, which is barely false. The law requires three books made out just alike, two to go to the clerk of the court on or before the 1st of January, the third one to go to the auditor on or before the 1st of April, as has been done, according to direc-

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tions. No one has a right to the third book but the assessor, and as soon as completed must be forwarded by him to the state auditor at Charleston, and I further say the books of Ohio county were not the first to be sent to Charleston. Several of the other counties had filed their books with the auditor before the books of Ohio county had been completed. R. M. MAXWELL. Wheeling, Feb. 15, 1900.

NICARAGUA CANAL
Current Changing as to the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty.

New York Times (Ind. Dem.): The campaign of education in the senate has been prompt and effectual. Already the opponents of the ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty acknowledge that the senate will approve the treaty. Senators who hastily and without knowledge began to oppose ratification are either discreetly silent or announce their support of the treaty.

It seemed to us inevitable that as soon as the light penetrated to the senatorial mind the current of opposition would change. Those whose eyes were shut at first now see clearly that England has made important concessions. That contents them, for there are always many American statesmen who set their faces like flint against any "surrender" to England. This time it is England that has surrendered, and that wonderfully helps the treaty. Exclusive American control, for which there was a terrible outcry from New England senators who are commonly distressed lest America may try to control too much, is now seen to be a glittering but unsubstantial chimera, an unreal and misshapen thing. As Lord paramount of the canal we should have had to depend on our teeth and claws to protect it. Any swarting fellow that rode the seas might have put us to great trouble and cost, and have destroyed the canal to boot; and that key to both oceans would not long have escaped the notice of the lawless. Its control by us would have been a constant incitement to molestation.

In proportion as the advantages of exclusive control become less apparent, the objections to the joint guarantee of neutrality melt away. The joint guarantee is not meddling in our American affairs by the powers of Europe. It is simply an agreement not to meddle. The powers join in a treaty stipulation that they will not interfere with the Americans in their management and operation of the water-way. Even in time of war they pledge themselves to respect it. We assure ourselves in the unmolested control and protection of the business of the canal at the cost of a peace of parchment, instead of having to pay for fortresses, disappearing guns, and a navy for canal defense. Moreover, we get the canal. The new treaty opens the way, which was previously blocked. No friend of either the Nicaragua or the Panama project, can afford to oppose ratification.

DENIED

Is the Story of Cession of Danish West Indies.

PARIS, Feb. 14.—The correspondent of the Temps at Copenhagen says that a bill ceding the Danish West Indies to the United States for twelve million kroner, will be submitted to the chambers before the end of the present session.

This, however, is evidently untrue, at least for the moment. The Danish government, for the past twenty-five years, has rejected America's overtures for the sale of these islands, and it is only during the last six months that confidential negotiations have been entered into. They, however, are so little advanced that not only has no price been fixed, but the principle of the cession has not been admitted.

Trouble at Formosa.

TACOMA Wash., Feb. 15.—Formosa is again unquiet, according to advices by the steamer St. Irene. A rebel band last month raided Japanese offices at Mato, carrying off 3,000 yen. This outbreak followed the refusal of the Japanese to loan the rebels forty rifles to go hunting with. In three other localities of southern Formosa bandits are plundering. Considerable success seems to be attending the Japanese government's experiment of enrolling its Formosa subjects for military service.

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QUICK EXCHANGES

Of Treaty Ratifications to be Adopted by the United States, Germany and Great Britain in Regard to Samoa—The Ratifications to be Simultaneously Exchanged by Cable. NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—A special to the Tribune from Washington, says:

An innovation in the formality of exchanging treaty ratifications has been adopted by the United States, Great Britain and Germany, in order to secure partition of Samoa with the least possible delay, and for the first time the submarine cable is to be called into service, to obtain results within as many hours as under the customary deliberate way would have taken weeks, yet without any sacrifice of the dignity or solemnity of the ceremony. When the German emperor is empowered by the constitutional legislative authority to ratify the treaty of December 2, which will probably be in the next day or two, the President of the United States having already the consent of the senate, and Queen Victoria having exclusive powers, its provisions may be made binding and operative within an hour or two.

To this end an arrangement has been made by which the ratifications will be simultaneously exchanged in Berlin, Washington and London. Ordinarily these ratifications would have been exchanged in Washington, as the treaty was signed here; but in view of the unsettled state of affairs in Samoa, which so long as the tripartite agreement lasted might at any moment cause further complications, it was determined to put the treaty into effect as soon as possible, with the object of leaving Germany free in the exercise of sovereignty and the suppression of any disorder in Upolu, Savali and the western islands of the group, while the United States would assume responsibility for Tutuila and the eastern islands, Great Britain ceasing to have a hand in the archipelago.

The novel arrangement which has been devised in this instance will probably be adopted generally in treaty exchanges hereafter.

CONGRESSIONAL FORMALITIES

To be Omitted at the Funeral of Mr. Chickering.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 14.—At the request of Mrs. Chickering, wife of the late Representative Chickering, of New York, there is to be no congressional funeral in connection with the interment of the deceased congressman, and the senators and representatives heretofore named as an escort have been notified that the congressional party will be abandoned. This is the only case in recent years, in which the formalities of such a funeral have been dispensed with, and it is due to the views held by Mr. Chickering and his wife against the ceremonious character of such affairs.

Storm in France.

PARIS, Feb. 14.—A serious storm prevailed throughout France last evening and to-day. Telegraph lines are broken everywhere, and communication by wire with Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and part of Germany is interrupted. Considerable damage has been done, and a number of fatalities have occurred, due to falling roofs and trees. The seaside towns have suffered badly and shipping casualties are feared.

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